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NATURAL HISTORY CALENDAR.

ORNITHOLOGICAL CALENDAR FOR MARCH.—In this Calendar we have endeavored to indicate the average time of the arrival and departure of the migratory birds in the State of Massachusetts for this month; in years when the cold of winter ceases earlier or later than the average opening of spring, as well as in districts north or south of this State. When the dates are found to be respectively too early or too late, the difference increasing in the latter, cease with the increase of the difference in latitude. Thus, some birds wintering in the Southern States, reach Washington, D. C., in their northward migration three weeks earlier than they do Massachusetts; in Southern Pennsylvania two weeks, and Southern New York nearly one week earlier; while the same species commonly reach the middle of Maine some ten to twelve days later than they do Massachusetts.

1st to 10th.—Blue Birds, Song Sparrows, Robins, Purple Grakles, Red-winged Black Birds, Rusty Grakles and Cow Birds, begin to arrive.

10th to 20th.—The preceding become more common. Meadow Larks, Bridge Pewees or Phœbes, Snow Birds and Purple Finches, begin to arrive; the Hawks that in winter are represented by but few individuals, as the Marsh, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, etc., increase in numbers by arrivals from the South. The Goshawks, Snowy Owls and other Northern visitors of the raptorial tribes mostly retire northwards.

20th to 31st.—All those previously arrived receive new accessions to their numbers, and become generally distributed. Grass Finches, Mourning or Carolina Turtle Doves, Passenger Pigeons (of late, uncertain visitors), and the Fox-colored Sparrows arrive; the Black Duck (*Anas obscura*), Canada and Brant Geese, Goosanders or Sheldrakes, Whistle-wings or Golden-eyes, Wood and Pintail Ducks, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, Divers, and several species of Grebes begin to frequent the rivers and open ponds, as well as the coast. Some of the sea-fowl that are winter visitors, as the Eider Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Skuas or Jager Gulls, Black-backed and Laughing Gulls, and Guillemots, return northwards; other kinds, as the Red-headed, Canvas-back, Ruddy, Surf Ducks, Scoters, King, Eiders, Kittiwake and Bonaparte's Gulls, Arctic Tern, and other species of the Duck and Gull tribes begin to arrive from the South; Snow Buntings and such rare land birds as the Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Cross-bill, the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) and Lesser Redpoll, leave for the north, as do also many of the Butcher Birds.

Such early breeding species as some of the Hawks and Owls pair during this month; some, as the White-headed Eagle, Duck Hawk

and Great Horned Owl, which begin their courtships as early as February, choose their eyries, and the former commences incubation. Blue Birds frequently pair before the end of the month, and taking possession of breeding boxes or holes in trees, guard them carefully against intruders.—J. A. A.

The Robins often lay the eggs for their first brood in March, in the vicinity of Salem.—EDS.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, *Boston. Jan. 8, 1867.* The following papers were read:

Thermogenesis, or Theory of Temperature, by Dr. J. D. Whelpey, of Boston.

The Object and Method of Mineralogy, by T. Sterry Hunt, of Montreal, Canada.

On the Inequalities produced in the Moon's Motion by the Secular Variation in the position of the Ecliptic, by G. W. Hill, of Cambridge.

ESSEX INSTITUTE, *Salem. Jan. 7, 1867.*—The following paper was presented:

A Catalogue of the Birds of North America contained in the Museum of the Essex Institute, with which is incorporated a List of the Birds of New England, with brief critical notes, by Elliott Coues, M. D., U. S. A.

Mr. C. Cooke made some remarks on the Sea Coco (*Lodoicea sechellarum*); and Mr. E. Bicknell exhibited sections, mounted for the microscope, of the poison fangs of the Rattlesnake.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, *Chicago. Annual Meeting, Jan. 8, 1867.*—Dr. William Stimpson was appointed Director of the Museum, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Major R. Kennicott.

The President, Geo. C. Walker, Esq., delivered his annual address.

The Secretary then submitted his annual report.

The following resolutions were passed:

WHEREAS, The appropriation for the Illinois General Survey has been too small to allow of a sufficiently rapid examination:

Resolved, That this Academy desires to express its sense of the great importance of this work, and its hope that the appropriation will be increased to a degree that will carry on the State Survey with a greater rapidity than heretofore.

Resolved, That our Representatives in the General Assembly be respectfully requested to favor the increase of the appropriation.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. *January 2, 1867.*—Mr. Horace Mann exhibited a large panoramic photograph of the crater on the summit of Haleakala, the mountain of East Maui, Hawaiian Is-